

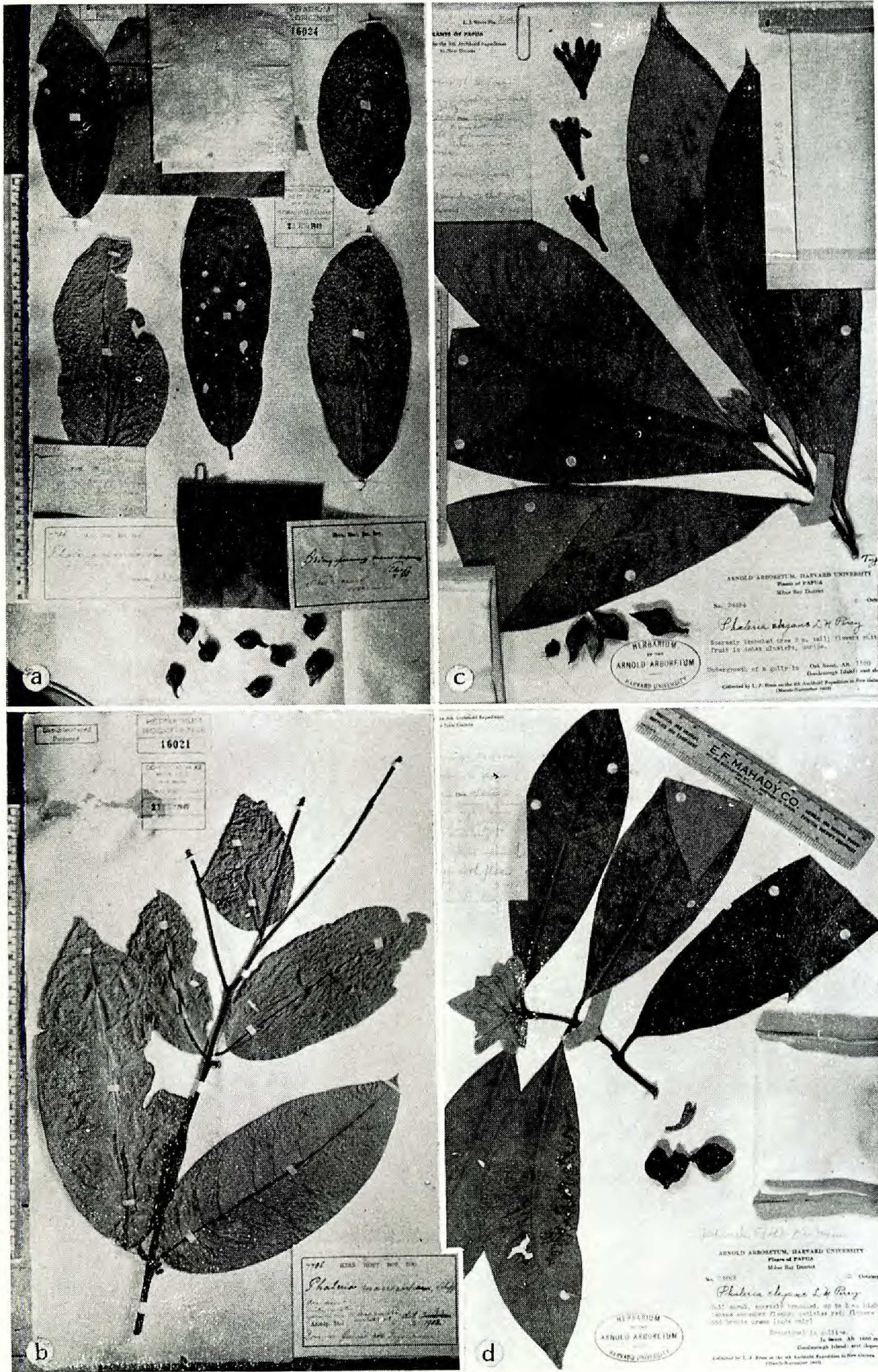
A NEW SPECIES OF PHALERIA (THYMELAEACEAE)
FROM NEW GUINEA *

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THE COLLECTIONS of the Fourth Archbold Expedition to New Guinea include two numbers of *Phaleria* with flowers having an unusually broad perianth-tube. I have searched both herbaria and literature but up to now have found nothing to match it. For a long time it has been a recognized fact that the species of this thymelaeaceous genus are difficult to separate. Mr. C. T. White (1919) drew up a key to the species of Queensland, based on the position of the flower-heads, the pubescence (or the lack of it) on the outside of the perianth-tube, the relative length of the latter, and the relative length of the leaves. Dr. A. C. Smith (1942) presented a key to the Fijian species with the following introductory paragraph: "The Fijian species are difficult to separate; one finds that such characters as leaf-texture, shape, and size, position of inflorescence, length of peduncle, size and internal pubescence of perianth, shape of faucial scales, length of filaments, and pubescence of ovary are variable within a species and not very dependable. The only specific characters which are more or less constant appear to be the 4- or 5-merous condition of the flower, the external pubescence of the perianth (in one species), the degree of persistence of the floral bracts and their size, and, in some cases, the length of petioles."

I was unable to find a key to the Malaysian species of the genus, and perhaps a look at the synonymy given in critical works such as those of Valetton (1913) and Hallier f. (1922) might suggest a reason. To draw up a workable key, it would be necessary not only to make a complete study of the material designated by the various epithets but also supplementary collections from the type-localities with both flowers and fruits. This is not feasible at present. However, the two collections under consideration have flowers with perianth-tubes so much more broadly infundibular than any which I have seen, or found indicated in the literature, that I believe this difference to be of specific importance. Perhaps among the species described from Malaysia, the fruits are nearest in size to those of *P. macrocarpa* (Scheff.) Boerl., a species apparently not included in Hallier's list of Malayan representatives with critical synonymy, and, other than the original publication as *Drymispermum* (1876) and the nomenclatural transfer to *Phaleria* (1900), I have not found it mentioned in the literature. To facilitate the comparison of *P. macrocarpa* with the two *Brass* collections, I am indebted to Mr. J. Leandri, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, for negatives of the type and three duplicates which he has on loan from the Bogor Herbarium. Of these, two are reproduced in the plate ac-

* Botanical Results of the Richard Archbold Expeditions.



FIGS. a, b. Type and duplicate of *Phaleria macrocarpa* (Scheff.) Boerl. (coll. Teysmann, near Doré, New Guinea). FIG. c. Type of *P. elegans* L. M. Perry. FIG. d. Paratype of *P. elegans*.

companying this note: the type, (*fig. a*) bearing Teysmann's field label and another label with the name *Drymispermum macrocarpum* Scheff. in Scheffer's handwriting, consists of separate leaves and fruits (young, fide Mr. Leandri); the other (*fig. b*) shows the tip of a branchlet with the leaves attached and axes of inflorescences in the lower axils. Mr. Leandri affirmed that Scheffer's "pedicels" are actually very short peduncles, each bearing many fruit-scars. The reproductions of the two Brass collections (*figs. c, d*) include flower-buds, flowers and fruit. Of the three flowers attached to the sheet, the uppermost is laid open to show the inside of the flower; the leaves are elongately narrowed toward both base and apex, whereas those of Scheffer's species are obtuse with an abrupt acumen, and with obviously shorter petioles. The similarity in the shape of the fruits is probably a sectional rather than a specific character.

Phaleria elegans sp. nov.

Frutex arborescens 2–3 m. altus, sparsim ramosus; foliis magnis 18–30 cm. longis, 5.5–9 cm. latis, lanceolatis vel oblanceolatis, utrinque angustatis, apice acutis vel breviter acuminatis, basi cuneatis, glabris, crasse membranaceis vel subcoriaceis, nervis lateralibus utrinsecus 8–12 patentibus ante marginem arcuatis, venis costalibus pluribus, reticulo laxo, petiolo 1.3–1.7 cm. longo in sicco nigrescente; inflorescentiis terminalibus et axillaribus subsessilibus vel breviter pedunculatis, pedunculo 5–9 mm. longo (in fructu), apice bracteis circiter 8 instructo, interioribus majoribus ovatis vel oblongis acutis vel obtusis 2–3 cm. longis 6–14 flores involucrentibus; floribus sessilibus extus puberulis; perianthio (post compresso sicco) late infundibulari 3.8–4.2 cm. longo, ima basi 3–4 mm. juxta medium ca. 1 cm. sub lobis 1.3 cm. lato, tubo 2.9–3.3 cm. longo, intus infra medium puberulo superne fere glabro, lobis 5, ca. 8–9 mm. longis rotundatis intus praecipue prope marginem puberulis; staminibus 10, filamentis perianthii lobis subaequantibus; disco cupulari ca. 2 mm. alto crenulato; stylo filamentis brevioribus; ovario glabro biloculari, loculo uniovulato; fructibus in sicco late fusiformibus, 2.7–3.3 × 1.6–1.9 × 1.3–1.4 cm., utrinque acuminatis, spermis duobus.

Papua. GOODENOUGH ISLAND: sparsely branched tree 2 m. tall, flowers white, fruit in dense clusters, undergrowth of an oak forest, east slopes, alt. 1750 m., Oct. 1953, *Brass 24484* (A, type; LAE); tall shrub, sparsely branched, up to 3 m. high, leaves somewhat fleshy, petioles red, flowers and bracts cream-colored, occasional in forest gullies, east slopes, alt. 1600 m., Oct. 1953, *Brass 24883* (A, LAE).

The characters of this species might be indicated as follows: lanceolate or oblanceolate leaves elongately narrowed at both apex and base; flower-cluster terminal or axillary; large ovate cream-colored bracts surrounding the flower-cluster about to open, but missing on the cluster of fairly large but unripe fruits; the broadly infundibular perianth pubescent outside, with only very narrow scales in the throat.

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